

What is claimed is:

1. A peer-to-peer communication device, comprising:
an I/O port connectable to a network;
an I/O port connectable to a receive/display device; and
a component configurable to locally record at least a portion of a media broadcast in accordance with a request, and to transmit said locally recorded portion to another peer-to-peer communication device of said network upon request.
2. The peer-to-peer communication device of claim 1, wherein said component is further configurable to receive a transmission from another peer-to-peer communication device of said network.
3. The peer-to-peer communication device of claim 2, wherein said component is further configurable to locally store said transmission.
4. The peer-to-peer communication device of claim 2, wherein said component is further configurable to play said transmission on said receive/display device after said transmission is stored locally in its entirety or as said transmission is being received.
5. The peer-to-peer communication device of claim 1, wherein said component is further configurable to receive a request to record said portion of a media broadcast as input from a central controller of said network.
6. The peer-to-peer communication device of claim 1, wherein said component is further configurable to locally record a plurality of portions of a media broadcast, and to locate a selected pre-recorded portion for transmission to another peer-to-peer communication device of said network upon request.

7. The peer-to-peer communication device of claim 1, wherein said component is configurable to receive user input specifying a program schedule comprising at least a portion of a media broadcast, and transmit said program schedule to a central controller of said network.
8. A controller comprising:
an I/O port connectable to a network that includes a plurality of peer-to-peer communication devices; and
a storage device and a processing unit coupled to said storage device;
wherein said storage device and processing unit are configurable to:
receive user input on said I/O port entered on a first peer-to-peer communication device of said network, said user input specifying at least a portion of a media broadcast to be viewed on a receive/display device coupled to said peer-to-peer communication device; and
issue a request to a second peer-to-peer communication device to locally record said portion of a media broadcast.
9. The controller of claim 8, wherein said storage device and processing unit are further configurable to cause said second peer-to-peer communication device to transmit said locally recorded portion of a media broadcast to said first peer-to-peer communication device at a time specified by said user input.
10. A controller, comprising:
an I/O port connectable to a network that includes a plurality of peer-to-peer communication devices ;
a storage device and a processing unit coupled to said storage device;
wherein said storage device and processing unit are configurable to implement a plurality of user-input program schedules received from a plurality of said peer-to-peer communication devices, each of said program schedules specifying at least a portion of a media broadcast to be viewed on respective

receive/display devices coupled to respective peer-to-peer communication devices.

11. The controller of claim 10, wherein to implement said program schedules, said controller issues a request to a first peer-to-peer communication device to record at least a portion of a media broadcast specified in a program schedule entered by a user of a second peer-to-peer communication device different from said first peer-to-peer communication device.

12. The controller of claim 10, wherein said controller is configurable to:
receive a request from a first peer-to-peer communication device for content specified in a program schedule specified by a user of said first peer-to-peer communication device;
determine whether a second peer-to-peer communication device has locally recorded said requested content; and
if so, cause said second peer-to-peer device to transmit said requested content to said first peer-to-peer communication device.

13. A computer-usable medium tangibly embodying computer-executable instructions, said instructions when executed implementing a process comprising:
causing a first peer-to-peer communication device to locally record at least a portion of a media broadcast in accordance with user input, and to transmit said locally recorded portion to a second peer-to-peer communication device of said network upon request.

14. The computer-usable medium of claim 13, wherein said process further comprises causing said first peer-to-peer communication device to receive a transmission from said second peer-to-peer communication device.

15. The computer-usable medium of claim 14, wherein said process further comprises causing said first peer-to-peer communication device to locally store said transmission.

16. The computer-usable medium of claim 14, wherein said process further comprises causing said first peer-to-peer communication device to play said transmission on a receive/display device connected thereto, after storing said transmission in its entirety or as said transmission is being received.

17. A computer-usable medium tangibly embodying computer-executable instructions, said instructions when executed causing a controller of a network that includes a plurality of peer-to-peer communication devices to implement a plurality of user-input program schedules received from a plurality of said peer-to-peer communication devices, each of said program schedules specifying at least a portion of a media broadcast to be viewed on respective receive/display devices coupled to respective peer-to-peer communication devices.

18. The computer-usable medium of claim 17, wherein to implement said plurality of user-input program schedules, said controller causes a first peer-to-peer communication device to record at least a portion of a media broadcast specified in a program schedule entered by a user of a second peer-to-peer communication device different from said first peer-to-peer communication device.

19. The computer-usable medium of claim 17, wherein to implement said plurality of user-input program schedules, said instructions cause said controller to:

receive a request from a first peer-to-peer device for content specified in a program schedule specified by a user of said first peer-to-peer device;

determine whether a second peer-to-peer device has locally recorded said requested content; and

if so, cause said second peer-to-peer device to transmit said request content to said first peer-to-peer communication device.

20. A system comprising:

a plurality of peer-to-peer communication devices interconnected via a network, and each peer-to-peer communication device further connected to a receive/display device;

a controller connected to said network, to control said plurality of peer-to-peer communication devices in accordance with user-input program schedules, said program schedules respectively specifying at least a portion of a media broadcast to be viewed on respective receive/display devices coupled to respective peer-to-peer communication devices;

wherein said controller is configurable to cause a first peer-to-peer communication device to record at least a portion of a media broadcast specified in a program schedule entered by a user of a second peer-to-peer communication device different from said first peer-to-peer communication device.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein said network controller is further configurable to:

receive a request from a first peer-to-peer device for content specified in a program schedule specified by a user of said first peer-to-peer device;

determine whether a second peer-to-peer device has locally recorded said requested content; and

if so, cause said second peer-to-peer device to transmit said request content to said first peer-to-peer communication device.

22. In a network including interconnected peer-to-peer communication devices and a controller of said peer-to-peer communication devices, a method comprising:

receiving, at said controller, user input entered on a first peer-to-peer communication device specifying at least a portion of a media broadcast to be viewed on a receive/display device coupled to said first peer-to-peer communication device;

causing a second peer-to-peer communication device different from said first peer-to-peer communication device to locally record said portion of a media broadcast; and

causing said second peer-to-peer communication device to transmit said locally recorded portion of a media broadcast to said first peer-to-peer communication device upon request.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said controller maintains a plurality of user-input program schedules received from a plurality of said peer-to-peer communication devices, each of said program schedules specifying at least a portion of a media broadcast to be viewed on respective receive/display devices coupled to respective peer-to-peer communication devices.